

**Minutes**  
**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**March 8, 2023**  
**2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

One James Center, 9th Floor – Board Room  
Richmond, Virginia

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:55 p.m. by Chair Radcliff, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, John Hewa, Anne Oman, Nick Rush, and Steven Stone

Members absent: Nancy Agee and Dan Clemente

Other Board Members: Bill Hayter, Pace Lochte, Secretary Caren Merrick, Will Sessoms, Secretary Stephen Cummings, Mimi Coles, and Rick Harrell

VEDP staff present: Stephanie Agee, Lindsay Akers, Lesley Brown, Star Cranston, Nicole David, David Devan, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Jennifer Garrett, Stephen Hartka, Chris Hughes, Angie Jenkins, Heather McKay, Lori Melancon, Lisa Wallmeyer, and Abigail Wescott

Guests present: Kim McKay, Evan Price, Nicole Riley, and Kendra Shifflett

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Radcliff asked if any members of the public wished to comment. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for December 7, 2022**

Chair Radcliff requested approval of the minutes from the December 7, 2022, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Ms. Oman, and the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Chair Radcliff briefly discussed events related to the General Assembly that occurred since the last meeting. She also introduced Angie Jenkins and stated that Ms. Jenkins would present updates regarding recent special elections and outcomes related to the session to the Committee.

### **Special Election Update**

Ms. Jenkins gave an update on the recent special elections. This included a special election on January 10 for three seats in the General Assembly, where Delegates Ellen Campbell (R) and Holly Seibold (D) and Senator Aaron Rouse (D) won their respective seats. Ms. Jenkins also noted that another special election was held on February 21 to fill the vacant seat left by the late Rep. Donald McEachin. State Senator McClellan won the special election for the congressional seat, which will require another special election in late March. Ms. Jenkins advised the Committee that in addition to the special elections, all 140 seats in the General Assembly would be up for election in November with all new districts. Ms. Jenkins emphasized how important it will be to engage with the many expected new faces of the General Assembly.

### **Session Update**

Ms. Jenkins provided an overview and highlights of the 2023 session. She noted the General Assembly regular session started on January 11, 2023, and ended on time on February 25, 2023, with the passing of what is being described as a "Skinny Budget." Ms. Jenkins described the four major components of the Skinny Budget. Ms. Jenkins added that over 2,800 bills and resolutions were introduced, with 170 tracked by VEDP, including four agency bills. Governor Youngkin is expected to act on all bills by March 27. The legislature is expected to return on April 12 for a scheduled reconvened session to consider any amendments or vetoes from Governor Youngkin. Ms. Jenkins added that since the Skinny Budget provides amendments to the existing biennial budget, there would not be a shutdown if the General Assembly did not return to consider additional amendments. She mentioned that there is an approximately \$3 billion surplus that the General Assembly may want to appropriate. Ms. Jenkins noted that if the budget conferees are able to reach an agreement on additional amendments to the biennium budget, they will ask the Governor to call them into a Special Session so the full legislature can take up the amendments. Among the many potential items under consideration is funding for an inland port and up to \$300 million in additional funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP).

### **VEDP Legislative Items**

Ms. Jenkins mentioned that there were four agency bills related to recent Major Employment Investment (MEI) Project Approval Commission projects that successfully passed and are awaiting approval by the Governor. These bills include HB2238 (Cherry) and SB1134 (Ruff) regarding the Precision Plastic Manufacturing Grant fund that establishes a fund for the custom grant for LEGO, which anticipates investing at least \$1 billion and creating at least 1,760 new jobs. HB2479 (Knight) and SB1522 (Barker) were two bills related to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) announcement, with a planned investment of \$35 billion and the creation of at least 1,500 jobs. The bills extend the data center sales and use tax exemption and create the Cloud Computing Cluster Infrastructure Grant fund.

## **Legislation Impacting Economic Development**

Ms. Jenkins then provided an overview of several other bills of interest or impacting VEDP from the 2023 General Assembly session. Following Ms. Jenkin's presentation, committee members discussed bills regarding workforce consolidation and site acquisition.

## **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Rush and seconded by Ms. Chenery to move into a closed session. The members unanimously approved the motion shown below.

I move that the Legislative and Policy Committee convene a closed meeting to discuss specific marketing strategies pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code Virginia, which allows for the discussion of specific marketing activities that would reveal to the Commonwealth's competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed by the Commonwealth.

## **Back in Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call vote:**

Ms. Wallmeyer read the following certification and then conducted a role call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Mr. Hewa	Aye
	Ms. Oman	Aye
	Mr. Rush	Aye
	Mr. Stone	Aye

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Brown  
Acting Recording Secretary